

Congressman Tells Duke Supporters "See You Next Year"

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence gave the following remarks from the floor of the U.S. House during debate on a resolution congratulating Duke University for winning the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship:

"I rise today to begrudgingly support this resolution and offer my congratulations to Duke, to Coach K. and to all those outstanding players for the NCAA Men's National Championship game.

"Now, that being said, I would be remiss, since I will have been married this summer 25 years to a graduate of Butler University, to fail to also rise and commend Coach Brad Stevens and the small but mighty basketball team that America became enamored with in this year's tournament, simply known as 'Them Dawgs' back in Indiana, and the 'Butler University Bulldogs' to the rest of the country, taking nothing away from Duke, which is an outstanding university and has an outstanding program, or Coach K.

"I have to tell you, I was especially moved when-I think it was the day before the basketball game-there was all the talk of 'David and Goliath,' all the talk of underdogs and Coach K., being the class act that he is, went before the national press and said: 'Enough of this talk about underdogs, Butler is a really good basketball team,' and anyone who tuned in that night - and my ears are still ringing from Mrs. Pence's enthusiasm in the living room that night - saw that the case was proven.

"Ultimately Duke carried the day, but with the news that Coach Brad Stevens has signed a long-term contract to stay in Indiana, and I think we're only losing one player next year, I say to my distinguished colleagues representing and speaking on behalf of Duke: 'See you next year, but congratulations this year.'"